FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PERUVIAN NAVY MINISTER ADDRESSES NAVAL CONFERENCE

PY261540Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Aug 78 PY

[Text] The Peruvian Navy, fully aware that humanity is experiencing the most difficult times of its history, has committed all its efforts to the creation of a better world.

The navy did so through its commander in chief and navy minister, Vice Adm Guillermo Parodi Galliani, when he closed the Ninth Inter-American Naval Conference in Lima with 14 of the continent's navies attending.

Parodi indicated that if discipline is not achieved in various sectors the objectives will not be achieved, and if there is no humanity in all these projects they will lack ideals.

He believes that it is necessary to strengthen the education and training of the cadets and subordinates of the navies, instilling a clear sense of ethics and the value of life.

He also emphasized the value of performing duties, and asserted that the best of the services of the countries represented at this event and the unity of America emerges in this type of meeting.

He also indicated that it is comforting to have worked with new ideas and found solutions to common problems [words indistinct] within the specific limits of the profession.

Talking about the assisting delegations, Adm Jorge Merino Castro, chief of the Chilean Navy, indicated that all the countries that are committed to American integration, during times in which the policy of the (?good neighbor) predominates, will prove to be a positive benefit for America.

He added that the meeting had had great value [words indistinct] for each of the continent's navies and for their countries.

Naval Conference Ends

PY261524Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 26 Aug 78 PY

[Text] Lima--Admiral Toribio Merino Castro closed the Ninth Inter-American Naval Conference, saying that this meeting had tried to achieve mutual understanding of the maritime problems in the continent. Without making it clear what he was referring to, the member of the Chilean Government junta and commander of the Chilean Navy told his American colleagues that the conference might not have fully satisfied the aspirations of some participants, thus causing some frustrations. However, he added, the road remained open to achieving more satisfactory results in the future.

ITAIPU HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT WILL COST $8.7 BILLION

PY241615Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 24 Aug 78 PY

[Text] The updated cost estimate of the Itaipu hydroelectric project is $8.7 billion, up from $7.5 billion 19 months ago. This new cost estimate was approved at the latest meeting of the administrative council held in Brasilia.

'THREAT TO PEACE' SEEN IN BORDER DISPUTE

PY251918Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1735 GMT 25 Aug 78 PY

[By Bertrand Bellaigue]

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 25 Aug (AFP)--Observers noted here today that in the absence of a solution to the border differences between Argentina and Chile over the Beagle Channel in Tierra del Fuego, the Buenos Aires government will not vacillate in defending its legitimate rights and sovereignty with weapons in hand.

Observers gathered the impression that, up to 15 August, negotiations had conveyed a conciliatory spirit from both parties which--as hoped in Argentine Government circles--would permit compliance with the deadlines agreed upon by the chiefs of state. This was at least their officially stated desire.

However, a major change which the joint official communique could not disguise took place on 15 August.

The Argentine delegation adopted an attitude which was incompatible with good progress of the negotiations, with the 1881 treaty, with the arbitration award, and with Chilean sovereignty over the islands of the southern archipelago.

Observers believe in fact that for internal reasons, neither government could give up "even the smallest part" of the sovereignty it considers is its legitimate right to exercise in the southern zone of the border.

Although no conflict has yet arisen, it should at least be noted that the negotiations have come to a deadlock and that this situation is a threat to peace in the southern cone.

These fears are based on the fact that the army commander in chief did not disguise his thinking when he recently declared in a radio editorial his conviction that all Argentines are determined to defend their legitimate, sovereign rights.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH SURINAM

PY241758Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1450 GMT 24 Aug 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Aug (TELAM)--Through decree No 1,910, the Argentine Government has established diplomatic relations with Surinam and authorized the creation of an embassy in that country.

The decree, which was published in the Official Bulletin, states that it is of paramount importance to intensify relations with both the government and the people of Surinam, as well as to explore and broaden trade possibilities between the two countries through diplomatic action.

BRIEFS

JOINT ANTARCTIC COMMAND--Buenos Aires, 24 Aug (TELAM)--Brig Gen Pablo Osvaldo Apella, joint chief of staff, today swore in Navy Capt Alberto Oscar Casella as chief of the Joint Antarctic Command. He replaces Navy Capt Carlos Alberto Barros. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1505 GMT 24 Aug 78 PY]

USSR AMBASSADOR--Buenos Aires, 25 Aug (TELAM)--USSR Ambassador Semen Petrovich Dyukarev was entertained last night by Foreign Minister Oscar Antonio Montes. The reception was held in the Golden Room of San Martin Palace and attended by members of the foreign diplomatic corps. It was given because the USSR ambassador has ended his tour of duty. He was accredited in 1972.

[Text] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Aug 78 PY]

PEREDA REJECTS CALL FOR ELECTIONS IN 6 MONTHS

Create Conditions for Democracy

PY251930Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Aug 78 PY

[Relay from Cochabamba]

[Text] Immediatism [inmediatismo] and irrationality must be definitely banished, President Juan Pereda Asbun said this morning when talking to the Cochabamba press. The chief of state rejected the political parties' request that his government call elections within 6 months.

[Pereda--begin recording] Immediatism and irrationality must be banished. We must act with great responsibility and sincerity, because this is what the people expect from both the political parties and [words indistinct]. [end recording]

He also indicated that it is more important to create the conditions for the country's democratization than to establish deadlines for elections. [passage indistinct]

Pereda noted the many tasks which the country's democratization will demand, such as study of the electoral law, drafting of legislation regarding political parties and other measures. He also made it known that a high level commission will be created soon to study electoral reforms, from which no Bolivian must shy away because of the importance this involves for the fatherland [words indistinct].

Sea Outlet Through Dialog

PY261318Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 Aug 78 PY

[Excerpts] President Juan Pereda Asbun has made statements to the press in Cochabamba city.

Referring to some aspects of the situation in the Latin American southern cone, he said: It is our fervent desire that all problems be solved through dialog and that we Latin Americans should never have to confront each other for any reason.

He added that the government is concerned by the nation's economic situation, but that appropriate measures are being taken, such as cuts in the budget and other adjustments toward real austerity. He then stated that priority will be given only to development programs which are profitable to the nation.

The president also mentioned the maritime problem, asserting that it is the intention of the government to reach solutions through a constructive dialog and to continue to make the world aware of the issue, in order to show Bolivia's need for a sovereign outlet to the Pacific Ocean. He then stressed: We are convinced that international justice will prevail in this continent.

He concluded by denying that there would be changes in the cabinet in the immediate future, saying that adjustments would be made in due time.

PAZ ESTENSSORO TO RUN AGAIN IN NEXT ELECTION

PY260212Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2235 GMT 25 Aug 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 25 Aug (AFP)--Three-time former President Victor Paz Estenssoro will once again be a candidate for the presidency in the next general elections.

Edwin Rodriguez, a high-ranking leader of the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), which adheres to Paz Estenssoro, released this information to AFP here today.

"Paz Estenssoro's candidacy will receive 450,000 votes, which will permit us to have a significant representation in the next congress," he added.

Paz Estenssoro is currently resting in his native city of San Luis, about 1,200 km south of La Paz.

Rodriguez said that in the annulled general elections of 9 July, "we won only 200,000 votes, because thousands of ballots were stolen from us and were tallied for the official candidate."

He added that the entire opposition is demanding general elections for the first half of 1979, saying that the government should summon the opposition leaders as soon as possible to democratically discuss the holding of these new elections. He said that this meeting should be called within the next few days.

"Democracy is the will of the country's majority, and that democracy requires a new call for general elections, but this time without the fraud which occurred in the last elections," he concluded.

MILITARY CHIEF PROMISES RETURN TO BARRACKS

PY2420362 Paris AFP in Spanish 1852 GMT 24 Aug 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 24 Aug (AFP)--Gen Angel Hugo Salmon, commander in chief of the Bolivian Armed Forces, anncunced here today that the armed forces will definitively withdraw to their barracks and will no longer intervene in political affairs, after the present transitory government period is over.

We want the armed forces to withdraw honorably from politics to their barracks in order to dedicate themselves more than ever to their real professional role, he added.

The high-ranking officer also stressed the need for the military men to dialog with the civilian political leaders in order to seek national unity and pacification.

When referring to a trip to Europe some months ago, the commander of the Bolivian Armed Forces stated that he learned during his tour that some countries on the Pacific were seeking financial support for the purchase of amazing quantities of high-quality armaments.

He added: As far as Bolivia is concerned, we have the essential weapons to repulse any foreign aggression.

Salmon again stated his concern over the possibility of an armed conflict in the Latin American southern cone as a result of the Argentine-Chilean frictions in their disagreement over the Beagle Channel question.

We are aware of the real economic situation of the nation, and we have therefore never been in favor of Bolivia entering a senseless armaments race, which would openly contradict our peaceful spirit, he said.

When asked about the possibility of a resumption of diplomatic relations with Chile, Salmon replied:

I believe that diplomatic relations with Chile should not be resumed, as long as the Bolivian aspiration is not satisfied to its full extent.

After explaining the importance of the maritime claim in Bolivian history, he made an allusion to the 100th anniversary of the War of the Pacific between Chile and the Bolivian-Peruvian Confederation in 1879.

The commander of the armed forces said that Bolivia needs a broad political consensus, leading to unity among Bolivians.

He added: The armed forces favor unity among all Bolivians for the betterment of the fatherland.

We are therefore opposed to the participation of officers on active service or in the reserve as candidates in the next general elections to be held in the country, the Bolivian general concluded.

BANZER TO VISIT U.S.; MEETS WITH PEREDA

PY2514517Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1435 GMT 25 Aug 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 25 Aug--It was reported here today that the Bolivian president, Gen Juan Pereda, and former President Hugo Banzer held a 1-hour meeting last night.

Generals Pereda and Banzer met at Banzer's private residence located in the Irpavi residential district of this capital.

There is no information regarding the issues discussed at this meeting, which was held on the eve of the visit Banzer will make to the United States for private reasons.

Reliable sources reported, meanwhile, that Banzer will go to the United States especially to undergo a complete medical checkup.

AFP has confirmed that Banzer's health is a cause of concern to his doctors.

BRIEFS

DISPUTE BETWEEN PEASANT ORGANIZATIONS--The Bolivian National Peasant Workers Confederation [CNTCB], now led by Pascual Gamon, has stated that it is dedicated to maintaining unity among the Bolivian peasant class, based on nationalism and the military-peasant pact. The CNTCB denies that the national congress called for tomorrow by the Tupac Katari National Peasant Workers Confederation represents anyone, accusing the group of destroying peasant unity in La Paz Department. [La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Aug 78 PY]

ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF--The commander in chief of the armed forces, Gen Angel Hugo Salmon, yesterday swore in Brig Gen Antonio Rojas Montalvo as chief of staff of the Armed Forces Command. Until yesterday General Rojas was commander of the School for High Military Studies. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 23 Aug 78 p 9 PY]

JAPANESE AID--The Japanese ambassador has announced to the Foreign Ministry that the Japanese Government has granted nonreimbursible economic aid to Bolivia in the amount of 500 million yen. This aid is part of the economic cooperation program for the increase of foodstuff production and consists of machinery, farm implements, fertilizer and insecticides. [La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Aug 78 PY]

BIG ANTIGOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATION STAGED IN SAO PAULO

PA272333Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2313 GMT 27 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Sao Paulo, Brazil, 27 Aug (EFE)--Some 15,000 persons demonstrated today in downtown Sao Paulo against rising prices and government policies. It was the biggest opposition demonstration staged against the military regime in its 14 years in power.

The demonstration was organized by the "Movement for the Defense of the Cost of Living," whose members include church personalities, students, workers and women, as well as members of the opposition political parties. In recent weeks the movement collected over 1 million signatures demanding a price freeze, a rise in wages above the official cost of living index and immediate creation of an "emergency wage downpayment [abono salarlial de emergencia]' for all types of wage earners. Sao Paulo Auxiliary Bishop Msgr Mauro Morelli is among the promoters of these demands.

Because it was impossible for the document to reach a government representative, the demonstration's spokesmen addressed it to the "Justice and Peace" Pontifical Commission.

A vast police operation tried throughout the day to keep the demonstrators from occupying the central Da Sa Square, where the metropolitan cathedral stands. In spite of this, several thousand demonstrators managed to enter the cathedral while police confined others to side streets leading to the square.

Several times police charged the crowds, who were chanting "down with the dictatorship and repression," "a united people will never be beaten" and other slogans against the high cost of living.

Approximately 60 persons were injured in clashes with police, who used trained dogs, nightsticks and tear gas grenades. Some of the grenades exploded on the cathedral's stairway and main door, causing panic among the demonstrators. Injuries were sustained during the ensuing confusion.

The demonstration was dispersed after 3 hours, and apparently no one was arrested.

ARENA CANDIDATE FIGUEIREDO HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

PY251425Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Aug 78 p 10 PY

[Press conference held by Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo in Sao Paulo on 23 August]

[Excerpts] [Question] What is the meaning of the slogan "reconcile to attain democracy" which the National Renewal Alliance [ARENA] is putting on the posters it is using for its electoral propaganda?

[Answer] It is obvious that ARENA selected these words, this slogan so to speak, because I made a call for reconciliation during my speech to the party convention. I believe that it will be easier for us to attain what you call full democracy and I prefer to call improvement of our democratic system, by means of reconciliation. Thus, I believe that ARENA might have picked up the idea I expressed in my speech to the convention.

[Question] When President Geisel appointed you ARENA candidate for president, you stated that the president would be free to withdraw your candidacy if he believed it necessary. If you saw that your candidacy and that of General Euler [Bentes Monteiro] would cause the division of the country, would you still withdraw it for the good of the country?

[Answer] Only if President Geisel asked me. If he did not, I would go on to the end.

[Question] And if he did ask you?

[Answer] If he asks I will abide by his wishes.

[Question] General, we would like to know what you think about General Euler?

[Answer] My idea of General Euler is that he is a bright and dedicated boy. He is still my good friend. As to what he thinks now, I do not know because I have not talked with him.

[Question] General, you have revealed that General Euler has been luring to his side captains and lower ranks, but that he only has attained 2 percent support within the army. Do you confirm this statement of yours?

[Answer] I do.

[Question] You stated in the rural areas of Sao Paulo that it would be better to leave the political opening for "the day after tomorrow." What I want to ask you is what are the forces which prevent this opening from taking place today?

[Answer] The democratic game has already been launched. Therefore, a political opening at this point would confuse the country. We already have governments, candidates for state governors, candidates for senators, and any change in these rules would just confuse the country.

[Question] General, are you committed to this democratic opening irrespective of the results of the 15 November elections?

[Answer] The democratic opening does not depend on the result of the elections. It depends on the conscience of each person.

[Question] But you stated in rural Sao Paulo that the speed of the opening would depend on the electors, that is, on the result of the 15 November elections.

[Answer] No. What I wanted to say was that it would be easier, that is, I said that if the electors voted for ARENA candidates, I would be better prepared to proceed faster.

[Question] General, you stated in Sao Jose do Rio Preto "when the time comes to make true the promises which I have made concerning improving our democratic regime, I will know where to seek the votes I will need." My question is: Could this be interpreted to mean that after you are elected you will hold a plebiscite to find out whether the people would like to have new democratic reforms?

[Answer] I do not know how you have reached the conclusion that I was talking about a plebiscite there. I said that once there was a democratic opening, and having access to the people and talking with the people, I would know where to look for votes for my party in the case of a direct election.

[Question] During this tour you have mentioned several times the need for the country to have a Christian democracy. What is your idea of Christian democracy?

[Answer] The same idea we have always accepted: A democracy based on Christian principles. We do not give up our Christian faith. We do not accept historical or any other kind of materialism.

[Question] There was talk among politicians that you are angry at the press. Is this true?

[Answer] Angry with the press, No. Angry with a certain section of the press which published, word by word, a joke which I made, in the way I used to make jokes, yes. However, the interpretation they gave to my words was completely different from what I really meant to say. All I wanted to say is that I miss my military life. I did not mean that I prefer the smell of the horses to the smell of the people as they quoted it. It would be very stupid to believe that I said something like that.

[Question] General, you said that you want democracy for the "day after tomorrow." Now, what is your idea of democracy? Is it safeguards? Direct elections?

[Answer] What is your idea? Is it government of the people, election of representatives by the people within a representative regime, in which the will of the people prevails? This is my idea of democracy.

[Question] Do you want democracy for the day after tomorrow and not in 3 years, as proposed by General Bentes Monteiro?

[Answer] What I meant to say is this: The thing is that the opposition time and again demanded democracy "now," and it proposed the Montoro Amendment for this purpose. The opposition candidate has now proposed a transition government prior to establishing a democratic government. Just as I hope not to have to wait 3 years, I do not want to establish a transition government. What I meant to say is that if the circumstances are favourable, I will restore democracy the day after tomorrow, that is, I will implement democracy as soon as possible after taking office.

[Question] What do you think of the demands made by teachers and metal workers in Sao Paulo?

[Answer] I believe that, considering his wage level, each worker has the right to make demands, but only after having exhausted all legal means. Now, what I do not admit is calling a strike before anything else.

[Question] You talked about favourable circumstances for restoring democracy. What would these circumstances be?

[Answer] Politicians will have to comply with the rules of the game, and the opposition should act as a true opposition, criticizing those government actions which it believes are not in keeping with the country's progress or with the people's desires.

[Question] Does the fact that the two candidates are military officers mean that the presidential succession is a military issue?

[Answer] No, because the Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB] could have nominated a civilian candidate. The MDB did not nominate a civilian just because it did not want it. Had the MDB nominated a civilian candidate, your question would have been meaningless. I did not in any way influence the MDB decision to nominate a military candidate.

[Question] The Bertes Monteiro candidacy emerged from a movement which originated in military quarters, especially among colonels. What do you think about this?

[Answer] I think that is a lie. That is your statement, which I know is not true.

[Question] When will the people have the right to elect their president?

[Answer] I hope they can do it as soon as possible. If possible, even the day after tomorrow.

[Question] Is the government afraid of the peoples' judgment?

[Answer] What? Ask the government. I don't think so.

[Question] You have said that politicking does not go with your personality. How will you manage to rule for 6 years without politicking, admonishing, or compromising, and without using political tools?

[Answer] I never said that. What I said is that politics, being a politician, is not in keeping with my training. I was trained to do something different, and a politician's behavior must be different from that of a military officer. Therefore, I am making a great effort to behave like a good politician. This is what I said, although I am making a great effort to behave like a politician, sometimes I act like a military officer, which is quite natural.

[Question] What can you tell us about the possible extension of the present president's term in office and the convocation of direct elections in 2 years?

[Answer] It would be a good way of keeping me out of it [the presidential race].

[Question] And the Montoro Amendment?

[Answer] It was, it will be, defeated.

BRIEFS

IRANIAN PRINCESS VISITS--Brasilia, 24 Aug (AFP)--Princess Ahraf Pahlevi, sister of the Iranian shah, is visiting Brazil and met President Ernesto Geisel and several of his ministers today. The Brazilian Government attaches much importance to the visit because of the increasing trade relations between the two countries in which Iran has a large trade surplus. Last year Brazil imported Iranian products (mainly petroleum) amounting to $370 million, whereas Brazilian exports to Iran only totaled $95 million. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0133 GMT 25 Aug 78 PY]

SOURCES DENY BEAGLE TALKS TO RESUME NEXT WEEK

PY260323Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0231 GMT 26 Aug 78 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 25 Aug (AFP)--Chilean diplomatic sources reported today that Chilean-Argentine negotiations on the Beagle conflict will remain suspended.

Chilean members of Joint Commission No. 2 have stated that as long as Argentina does not reconsider its position, negotiations will not be resumed.

The sources have thus rejected an Argentine rumor indicating that diplomatic negotiations will resume in Buenos Aires next week.

At the Foreign Ministry, the group headed by Francisco Orrego, head of the Chilean delegation to the joint commission, held a new meeting to evaluate the state of negotiations and new proposals.

CHURCH CALLS FOR ACTION ON 269 MISSING PERSONS

PY261502Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 26 Aug 78 PY

[Text] The Catholic Church has expressed to the Interior Ministry its interest in the status of investigations on alleged missing persons as reported by the clergy from different cities in the country. The total number of these cases is 269.

Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez has revealed that there is interest on the part of his ministry in providing definite information on those missing persons so that their relatives can legally dispose of and use any property which those persons had.

The Catholic Church has just sent a letter to Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez requesting information on another 30 missing persons, bringing the total to 269. The letter, which was signed by the vicar general of the Santiago diocese, Monsignor Ignacio Ortuzar, and the auxiliary bishops, Monsignor Enrique Alvear and Monsignor Jorge Hourton, says that the ministry has not yet given an answer to similar letters which were sent on 5, 12, 20 and 31 July, and that, therefore, this new request is being made since the government has promised to investigate any case properly presented.

The letter then says that, echoing the concern of relatives of these missing persons, the Catholic Church once again urges the Interior Ministry to undertake a new effort in order to provide final information on all the cases so far presented.

UNION LEADERS ASK MINEWORKERS TO STAY CALM

PY251955Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1825 GMT 25 Aug 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile 25 Aug (TELAM-EFE)--The leaders of the Chuquicamata mine unions have asked the miners to remain calm and tranquil in the wake of the Interior Ministry's decision to postpone indefinitely a general meeting of workers.

The meeting was to be held today and was designed to brief the 8,000 miners on the negotiations held with government officials in Santiago regarding economic demands made by the copper workers and the reinstatement of six dismissed workers.

The union leaders stated that they honestly could not keep to themselves their displeasure over the repressive measure ordered by the Interior Ministry, that is, banning the miners' meeting.

In view of this, they decided to request the immediate reinstatement of the six dismissed workers and noted that they are ready to go to Santiago to resume the negotiations.

RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH WESTERN SAMOA

PY261508Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 26 Aug 78 PY

[Text] Chile and Western Samoa have decided to establish diplomatic relations with the appointment of nonresident ambassadors, according to information released by the Chilean Foreign Ministry. The Samoan Archipelago is located in Polynesia in the South Pacific and has over 100,000 inhabitants.

BRIEFS

SPANISH DEPUTIES VISIT--Santiago, Chile, 23 Aug (AFP)-- Fernando Alvarez de Miranda, president of the Spanish Chamber of Deputies, left for Montevideo today after a 5-day visit to Chile. Alvarez de Miranda and Luis Vegal Escaldon, deputy to Asturias, held several meeting with representatives of the dissolved Chilean Christian Democratic Party, including former president Eduardo Frei and current Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1907 GMT 23 Aug 78 PY]

JAPANESE CREDIT--The Bank of Tokyo has issued credits to Chile of $32 million. Almost $25 million of this amount has been granted through the Chilean Central Bank. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Aug 78 PY]

FISHERY RESULTS--Fishery Ministry Under Secretary Jose Radic has reported that 150,000 tons of anchovies were caught between January and August this year, whereas the total 1977 anchovy catch was only 50,000 tons. Vicente Izquierdo, president of the National Fishery Society, reported that the total catch of all species suitable for making fishmeal was almost 900,000 tons in the first 7 months of this year, whereas the total 1977 catch was 930,00 tons. [Santiago Chile EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Aug 78 Section C p 1 PY]

NEW SUPERTANKER--A new supertanker, Vina del Mar, will join the national fleet. This ship was built in the Japanese shipyards at Kobe at a total cost of $20 million and will be fitted for transportation of both fuel and minerals. [Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 25 Aug 78 PY]

MORALES REITERATES INTENTION TO CALL GENERAL ELECTIONS

PA280410Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0219 GMT 28 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 27 Aug (AFP)--President Francisco Morales Bermudez tonight reiterated that as soon as the Constituent Assembly drafts the new political charter he will call general elections to transfer power to civilians. Thus, the new consultation might be held sometime during the first half of next year, since Assembly President Victor Raul Haya de la Torre has predicted that the Constitution will be ready by the end of this year.

The president, who was speaking at a solemn municipal government session in Tacna, explained that general elections had been slated for 1980 but that the government's political chronology is tentative rather than rigid. He added that the elections, which will be held as soon as the respective law is approved and the electoral registry reorganized, will be fully guaranteed by the armed forces, as was the case during June's constituent elections.

The chief of state, who visited Tacna on the 49th anniversary of Tacna's reintegration into Peru, asked that all Peruvians--government, parties and citizens in general--remain as lucid as possible so that the process of democratic institutionalization can be completed without hindrance. He made this appeal, he said, in view of the fact that several extremist groups are trying to drag the country toward violence--those on the left because they do not believe in votes and those on the right because they hope to recover their privileges.

Addressing the leftwing extremists, the president concluded by warning that the armed forces and police will endorse the will of the people, who have chosen the path of democracy.

GOVERNMENT RULES OUT REINSTATEMENT OF DISMISSED MINERS

PA260406Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 25 Aug (LATIN)--It was learned here tonight that the government has definitely ruled out reinstating the 320 miners who were dismissed 1 year ago. The miner's union has been on strike for the past 4 weeks to obtain this reinstatement.

The strike, which began on 4 August, has paralyzed largescale mining activities and is causing daily losses of $2.5 million, according to an official figure.

The government's position was explained by President Francisco Morales Bermudez to mining leaders, whome he received in a special audience at the government palace.

Maximo Paz, secretary of defense of the Miners' Federation, informed this agency that Morales Bermudez had told the labor leaders that the decision of the Joint Command of the Armed Forces, the military junta and the Council of Ministers was "not to reinstate any of those who were dismissed from the mining sector."

Paz said that the federation has declared a permanent assembly to discuss the presidential position and that "at any moment, we will release our final position."

"The assembly will last for many hours, but in principle we disagree with the official reply. We will continue to fight for the reinstatement of our comrades," Paz said.

The government on Monday declared a state of emergency and suspended civil guarantees in the provinces where the main mining centers are located, but it is not known whether there were any arrests.

According to Paz, Morales Bermudez offered to have the government oversee the mining companies' compliance with the benefits offered to the dismissed workers and promised to revoke the emergency law from the mining sector and to revise the legal provisions regarding labor tenure. The U.S. Southern Peru Copper Corporation has offered to pay its 120 dismissed workers a monthly salary equivalent to $180 for 4 years, even if they are employed by other companies. Meanwhile, the state-owned Centromin-Peru [Central Peruvian Mining Enterprise], which operates in the Central Andes, agreed to finance social property enterprises for its 86 dismissed workers.

"Everything the president has offered is based on our lifting the strike. We will study this carefully," Paz said. As of 0200 GMT the mining leaders had not yet reached an agreement.

Government Proposal

FY261521Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Aug 78 FY

[Text] As a result of an extensive and cordial dialog between the president and mining leaders, the government has accepted an overall formula for resolving the mining sector's problem.

This six-point formula will regulate the immediate normalization and lifting of the miners' strike that is affecting the national economy. At the same time, it will justly consider the miners' petitions.

Attending the meeting, which began at 1600 and lasted for more than 3 hours, were Energy and Mines Minister Gen Juan Sanchez Gonzalez and Labor Minister Air Force Gen Jose Garcia Calderon Koechlin. The following represented the miners: Victor Cuadros Paredes, (Felix Hurtado), (Maximo Paz Valle), Guillermo Diaz Soto, Victor Diaz Arcelles, (Americo Paz) and the miners legal advisor, (Ricardo Diaz Calle). The six-point overall formula for a solution to the miners' problem will be implemented as soon as the workers lift the strike that is affecting some of the country's mining centers. At the conclusion of the dialog, miners' leader Victor Cuadros Paredes said that they were given an extensive and detailed report about the problems affecting the sector. "The president and the energy and mines and labor ministers listened to us very attentively."

The points of the formula, which was drafted during the dialog, indicate that there will be no reprisals against the miners if they lift the strike. The energy and mines and labor ministers will insure that the most convenient procedures are studied and that valid problems of various grassroot factions are resolved.

The formula also indicated that the government supports the repeal of law No 21,472, the emergency law for the mining sector, in view of the good will shown by the leaders of the Federation of Mineworkers, believing that in the future improved harmony and understanding will be achieved that will insure the economic recovery of this important sector. It is also indicated that the government believes it convenient to revise law No 22,126, the law on labor stability. The government will control implementation of the offers made by the mining and metallurgical firms [words indistinct] in relation to economic compensation and regarding the creation of enterprises that will ensure the future of the miners who have been fired.

The following are the compensation formulas which have been offered: Southern [presumably the Southern Peru Copper Corp.] has offered 800,000 soles to workers with less than 15 years of service and 1 million soles to those with more than 15 years of service.

Another alternative is the proposal [words indistinct] over a lapse of 48 months, whether the miner works or not. The Central Peruvian Mining enterprise's Cerro Verde complex and the Ilo refinery have offered to create associative enterprises and to provide a monthly 30,000-sole subsidy for 4 years. Regarding the medium and small-sized mining enterprises, they have offered to double the social benefits of workers who have been fired. Finally, the overall formula which was adopted during the dialog with Morales Bermudez indicates that as soon as the strike is lifted the government will lift the state of emergency in the mining centers.

Miners Reject Package

PA262312Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2035 GMT 26 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 26 Aug (LATIN)--The Miners Federation announced today that its 50,000 members will maintain the current national strike, thus openly challenging the government, which had proposed possible solutions to the 24-day-old strike. Yesterday, President Francisco Morales Bermudez made a final conciliatory proposal to the workers but warned that there would be no rehiring of miners.

A federation spokesman stated that the workers decided today during a general assembly to reject the government's proposal and to maintain the strike until the 320 miners who were dismissed a year ago are rehired. The strike affects medium and large mines. As a result, mining companies have declared that the silver, lead, zinc and blister copper situation is "beyond control." According to official figures, the strike is producing daily losses of $2.5 million, a situation that Economy and Finance Minister Javier Silva Ruete has characterized as "economic aggression against the country." The secretary general of the federation, Victor Cuadros, has stated that the president's proposal is a "direct attack on the freedom of labor unions."

The government's proposal, which is supported by the Joint Armed Forces Command and the cabinet, demands the suspension of the strike before voiding measures such as the Mining Emergency Law and the suspension of individual guarantees and revising the labor law, which has been questioned by all labor unions. The government's proposal also notes that there will be no reprisals against strikers and that the government will guarantee compliance with the mining companies' proposals of financial indemnity and financial support for the creation of socially owned enterprises.

Cuadros stated that the National Assembly of Delegates that concluded at dawn today decided to reject the government's proposal, to maintain the strike and to begin preparations for a hunger strike that may begin on Tuesday. There is great tension between the two parties this weekend as a result of the irreconcilable positions. Cuadros charged that the government has already arrested some miners and has banned the arrival of food at some camps, such as the Toquepala camp, with a population of 16,000. The Toquepala mine, second in copper production, is run by the Southern Peru Copper Corporation, a U.S. firm. This mine has dismissed 120 workers. Centromin-Peru, a state enterprise in the Central Andean Region, has dismissed 86 miners.

Elsewhere, several thousand miners who carried out a "sacrifice march" east from the Andean town of Oroya to Lima--a distance of 220 km--remain on the campus of the school of medicine with no shelter and depending on charity for their survival. They are there with their children and wives, thus making the area look like a giant Andean camp in downtown Lima. There is no surveillance of the area. Lima's dailies have issued editorials criticizing the miners' leaders, especially those who are members of the Constituent Assembly and who belong to leftist political parties.

MINISTER SPEAKS ON INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

PY261305Y Montevideo Domestic Service in Spanish 1819 GMT 25 Aug 78 PY

[Speech by Foreign Minister Adolfo Folle Martinez in the name of the government at Independence Day ceremonies in Florida--live]

[Excerpts] We wish for ourselves the same full rights, freedom and prerogatives which all nations of the world have. We want no more than this, but neither will we tolerate anything less than this.

As in the Florida of yesterday, in the Florida of today we say that within the goal for our relations with the world there are no excess of disproportions. The other nations of the world are the measures for our rights and freedom, our freedom and rights must be the measure for the other nations which coexist with ours.

From this perspective, from this vocation, we face international relationships, always open, but never defenseless; always relating our own legitimate desires with those of other countries: sovereign, respectful, alert and therefore trusting and trustworthy in friendship.

We try to acknowledge our errors before our friends, but we are intransigent with anyone who wishes to impose his ideas on us, trying to make us over into his own image.

We must be aware of the complexity and responsibility which emerge from these goals which history has proposed to us--especially since we as a country have proclaimed our peacefulness and do not want to bury or lock ourselves within our borders. We have sallied forth into the world, toward the world, ever since our independence. Solitude and seclusion are not symbols of strength, but of sinister pride.

We were born talking with other nations, we continue to talk with them within the guidelines of sovereign dialog, without fear and without haughtiness.

Our 1825 declaration was our national proclamation, and our national proclamation was always on the basis of peace and for peace. But peace is not a constant value, it is dynamic and because it is dynamic it is enriching. Action emerges and only action will nourish it. It needs work and activity, and it demands workers for its cause and not spectators of achievements which have been obtained through the efforts of others.

True peace is, therefore, not imposed but created. Mutual effort and cooperation are being developed among those who feel otherwise and do not want to give up their personalities to live in fruitful harmony and unity, but would rather live in apathetic vagueness. This harmony stems from the living history of each nation. And therefore, we Uruguayans are now seeking peace and harmony with other peoples; aware that by being Uruguayans, we belong to the West, to America, to the group of countries which struggle for development. And in addition to being all this, we are also ourselves, and we are so, not by imposition, but because of our authenticity. The same authenticity of our popular representatives who met here 153 years ago; the same which we have always had throughout our free and independent existence; the same which had made us strong, and being strong, capable of not giving up coexistence.

Today like yesterday, today perhaps more than ever, and by imposition of the growing development and the multiplication of international relations, soverign Uruguay is not confined within its own borders. It is known the world over and in all international forums, especially where a brotherly friendship is sought or a legitimate interest must be defended or promoted. Dozens of Uruguayans, representing the fatherland as members of missions abroad, are using all their talents and virtues in that dialog with the world abroad, opening bilateral and multilateral discussions between diplomatic missions and friendly countries, between permanent and special delegations to international organizations or conferences, and always within the framework of mutual respect and common benefit.

Finally, today we have to evaluate the significance of this 25 August 1978, looking back through 153 years of history. And today, on this exceptional occasion, we respond as a country through the exceptional civilian military process we are carrying out. We know that like yesterday--since 1825--we are seeking cohesion and unity to guarantee the authenticity of our national identity. More than ever before we are seeking, firmly and surely, the affirmation of our independence.

As a country and a community we are open for dialog because we are going through a process in which the people and the army have joined forces to restore harmony within the country and with other countries. We are unfailingly devoted to this process out of the deep conviction that only a united nation is capable of fulfilling its destiny. As in 1825, our attitude toward the world is open, and we firmly stand looking down the path blazed by the liberating crusade, a path which is straight and permits no hesitation and no compromises. Thank you.

SPANISH DEPUTIES MEET WITH OFFICIALS

PY250148Y Mont-video Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Aug 78 PY

[Text] The president of the Chamber of Deputies of Spain, Fernando Alvarez de Miranda, stated that Uruguay is experiencing a transitional phase on the road to democracy. Alvarez de Miranda and Luis Vega Escaldon, a deputy representing Asturias, met today with the president of the State Council, Hamlet Reyes, and stated that the meeting was very positive.

The two Spanish parliamentarians also met with Foreign Minister Adolfo Folle Martinez, and are planning to meet with other government officials in the next few hours.

VENEZUELAN MINISTER REPORTS ASYLUM TO SANDINISTS

PA262020Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1705 GMT 26 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 26 Aug (AFP)--Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi confirmed here today that Venezuela granted asylum to a group of Sandinists who were freed by a Sandinist National Liberation Front Command which seized the National Palace in Managua.

"Venezuela reached that decision because it respects human rights and the right of asylum," added Consalvi, who is on an official visit to Peru.

He said that if any others ask for that prerogative, Venezuela will also grant it.

He then said that the solution to the Nicaraguan problem lies in the "alternative" of restoring democracy.

The dean of Venezuelan diplomacy, who arrived here last Wednesday on an official 3-day visit as a guest of the Peruvian Government, left today for the archeological city of Cusco, 1,160 km from Lima, in southeastern Peru. He will return to Lima on Monday on his way to Caracas.

PEREZ NOTES NEED FOR COOPERATION FOLLOWING FSLN INCIDENT

PA270401Y Caracas Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1246 GMT 26 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 25 Aug (VENPRES)--"Basically, I am not interested in creating polemics or confrontations with the governments of the area. We need the cooperation of all Latin American countries in the struggle to obtain a new international economic order," said President Carlos Andres Perez today referring to the Sandinist guerrillas who are now in asylum in Panama. The president added that it would be desirable for an understanding to be reached among all Nicaraguan sectors to live in peace under a true state of respect for rights. "I believe that the time has come for deep thought by Nicaraguans who are in government as well as those who are not."

Perez said that there is growing unrest in Nicaragua and that this must be resolved by the Nicaraguan people themselves. He said he would be pleased to learn that "the Nicaraguan Government had found a dignified solution which would give the Nicaraguan people a truly democratic path." He added that nonintervention is a sacred principle of the Venezuelan Government, "but nonintervention has nothing to do with the supranational norms to which our countries have subscribed by signing the UN and OAS charters. These documents oblige us to respect human rights and the self-determination of peoples. We believe in those duties and also believe that we have the right to denounce before international organizations the fact that some of the countries which signed the charters do not respect them."

Asked about Venezuela's intervention in this conflict, the president said that the Venezuelan Government intervenes in any cause in which human rights are compromised. "Furthermore, we were asked to do so by the Nicaraguan Government [as received] and Nicaraguan politicians of the Sandinist group."

Concerning the Panamanian Government's agreement to receive the Sandinist guerrillas, Perez said: "I was consulted and said that I had no objection because those Nicaraguan citizens are free to stay wherever they wish." Finally, the Venezuelan president said that there are no problems with Venezuela's relations with Nicaragua.

Congress Repudiates Somoza Government

PA261911Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0326 GMT 26 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 25 Aug (AFP)--The Venezuelan Congress unanimously approved an accord [acuerdo] here today repudiating President Anastasio Somoza's regime and requesting that the OAS expedite the visit of its human rights commission to Nicaragua.

The accord proclaims solidarity with the struggles of all opponents of the present Nicaraguan Government and expresses hopes that "the ominous oppression which today afflicts" Nicaragua will end and "the most complete triumph of the democratic system" will be achieved.

The accord, which was approved by all the political factions of the Venezuelan Congress, was presented by Deputy Luis Manuel Penalver, an influential labor leader of the ruling Democratic Action Party.

In its introduction, the accord states that the Venezuelan Congress is moved "by the dramatic situation of the sister republic of Nicaragua," which is characterized by "the unpopular and repressive action of an antidemocratic and dynastic government and by the patriotic and heroic reaction of the Nicaraguan people."

The accord praises the action "of all sectors, from the broad opposition front...to the active Sandinist Front," and asks the congresses and political parties of the entire continent to support these sectors.

The document urges the democratic and progressive Latin American governments to carry out the corresponding institutional actions and asks the OAS to expedite the visit of its human rights commission to Nicaragua, where those rights "are trampled and violated."

PEREZ APPOINTS NEW INTERIOR MINISTER

PA251341Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0316 GMT 25 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 24 Aug, (AFP)--Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez officially appointed Caracas Governor Manuel Mantilla as the new minister of the interior.

Mantilla replaces Octavio Lepage who, beginning tomorrow, will begin a Senate campaign for the official Democratic Action [AD] Party for the December elections.

The new interior minister is a disciplined member of AD with a reputation for efficiency and with lengthy experience in public administration, including service as interior minister for brief periods in the past decade.

Mantilla will be replaced as governor of the federal district (the capital) by Luis Augusto Vegas Benedetti, who recently served as AD campaign director.

VENEZUELAN, PERUVIAN MINISTERS SIGN JOINT DECLARATION

PA270354Y Caracas Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1250 GMT 26 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 25 Aug (VENPRES)--The foreign ministers of Peru and Venezuela have agreed on the creation of a Peruvian-Venezuelan Mixed Economic Cooperation Committee to broaden and diversify bilateral cooperation and to organize the coordination, consultation and evaluation of exchange elements.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Dr Simon Alberto Consalvi, who is visiting Peru, has met with Peruvian President Div Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez and with Constituent Assembly President Dr Victor Raul Haya de la Torre. Important agreements were reached as a result of the meeting.

The representatives ratified their nations' firm adherence to the principles of the UN Charter, especially those related to the sovereignty of states, territorial integrity, faithful adherence to treaties, nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other states, self-determination of peoples and the peaceful solution of conflicts. The two parties also stated their concern with the growing use of human and material resources for the international production and purchase of arms. In this connection they committed themselves to joint efforts to reach an agreement on conventional arms limitation in Latin America in accordance with the Ayacucho Declaration ratified on 22 July 1978.

The representatives of the two countries also agreed that international credit and financial organizations must base their decisions on established norms and objectives. They support the credit and financial needs of the developing countries, as well as their balance of payments needs, without discrimination or excessive demands that would defeat the goals of these organizations.

The joint declaration states: "Countries that give credits and financial assistance must not pervert their support to the developing countries or try to impose on them action programs and priorities that are incompatible with their expansion plans and programs, because this has a high social cost."

The two parties also note that there is a need to establish efficient mechanisms for the transmission of information of special interest to the developing countries and for greater participation in the adoption of international decisions.

MIR OUTLINES SIX-POINT PROPOSAL FOR LEFTIST UNITY

PA261532Y Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 19 Aug 78 p D-2 PA

[Excerpts] Americo Martin, presidential candidate [of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR)], has asked all sectors of the Venezuelan left to sign a commitment consisting of six specific points that would serve as the basis for efforts aimed at seeking unity after the December elections.

The six points are:

1. A united commitment to create a leftist congressional bloc that will firmly represent the interests of the people, will work to prevent the National Congress from continuing to be an appendage of the government and will struggle for congressional control in the face of administrative corruption. The left is represented by more than 20 congressmen in the present constitutional period. We are sure that in the forthcoming period this number will grow substantially, and that this will provide a united left with the possibility of significant influence in Congress. The leaders of the congressional groups would form a coordination committee of the leftist bloc. We are also proposing the preparation of a congressional action program or platform that will define the orientation of the bloc.

2. A united commitment for joint efforts in municipal council elections.

A united left would obtain considerable representation in the municipal councils and this would advance the objective of transforming these bodies into genuine representatives of the people's interests and would provide better opportunities for struggling against administrative corruption. The united efforts would be evident in next year's municipal elections. We propose the creation of a special intercongressional commission to study all aspects regarding the creation of united lists of candidates for the municipal council elections.

3. A united commitment to jointly participate in next year's labor union elections as the means to achieve a new [labor] leadership and a class orientation for the labor movement. In 1979, there will be elections in the oil industry labor unions of Sidor [Orinoco mining and steel] and Ferrominera Orinoco, in the labor unions of the radio, television and communications industries and in hundreds of other important labor unions. The delegates to the Congress of the Confederation of Workers of Venezuela (CTV) will also be elected. The labor class knows that if the forces of the left promote a unifying process, the most important labor unions will appoint a new class leadership that has been forged in the workers' struggles. The domination of labor union bureaucrats, the arrangements with owners and the practices contrary to labor union democracy would cause a crisis and would open the way for a new leadership with a genuinely classist orientation. We propose that immediately after the national elections we create a unitary labor commission with representation from the various parties and independent labor leaders to examine everything related to joint participation in the labor union elections and for the elaboration of a minimum labor action program.

4. A united commitment to struggle to give the peasant movement a classist direction and an adequate orientation concerning its historic objectives. Joint participation in labor union and agrarian league elections and in the elections for delegates to state and national congresses of the Peasant Federation of Venezuela would be a decisive step in that direction. We propose the creation of a united peasant commission that will prepare a program to unite the peasants and will prepare for joint participation in peasant elections.

5. A united commitment to direct the struggle of teachers' associations and student movements toward the transformation of the education system in order to orient it with the national aspirations of cultural, scientific and technological independence so that the education system may provide equal opportunities to all Venezuelans and so that students may leave the schools with a critical mind that will question underdevelopment, foreign domination and social injustices. We propose a joint effort to raise the level of organization and influence of teachers' associations and student organizations. We propose that the left participate in next year's teachers' and students' elections, with a unifying program.

6. United commitment to promote a powerful movement in the associations of professionals and technicians to harmoniously connect their struggles with those of the people. We propose joint participation in the associations' elections and the preparation of unitary action platforms.

The persons signing this unitary commitment invite the political parties of the left, popular leaders and independent leaders to participate in the present unitary commitment with the certainty that we will be contributing to immediately raising the people's awareness and spirit of combat and that we will be preparing for the important struggles to come. The structure of the basis for the unity of the left represents the preparation for a great victory in the future.

Caracas, 17 Aug 1978.

MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY OFFERS ASYLUM TO FSLN MEMBERS

PA251954Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1801 GMT 25 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Aug (EFE)--Mexican Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel said today that Mexico will grant asylum to the members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front who want it.

In statements released today, the minister said the possibility was open since Mexico has invariably upheld the right to asylum.

Nevertheless, Roel said that so far no specific petition has been received.

The Mexican foreign minister hinted that negotiations are being carried out with the Nicaraguan Government regarding the possibility of obtaining safe-conducts for those who have sought asylum.

He added that the foreign office is not aware of any Mexican citizen's participation in the occupation of the National Palace on Tuesday.

According to a local newspaper, a Mexican, Victor Manuel Tirado Lopez, led the assualt against the Nicaraguan National Palace.

FANFANI DEPARTS AFTER TALKS WITH LOPEZ-PORTILLO

PA262316Y Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Amintore Fanfani, president of the Italian Senate, left the country yesterday after meeting here with President Lopez-Portillo and several government secretaries. Fanfani said at the international airport that his meetings with the president were very cordial and that possibilities of developing relations between the two countries and their parliaments were discussed.

The departure ceremony for Fanfani was simple and without protocol. He was seen off by Jose Joaquin Gamboa, leader of the Institutional Revolutionary Party Senate majority, and personnel of the Italian Embassy in Mexico. Fanfani said that he had accompanied Lopez-Portillo on several work tours of the interior and observed the country's development prospects.

LOPEZ-PORTILLO: LATIFUNDISTS MUST BE ELIMINATED

PA262326Y Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 Aug 78 PA

[Text] President Jose Lopez-Portillo said yesterday before a group of small property owners that the latifundist is the real enemy of the small landowner. He is the one we must attack, whom we must eliminate, he said, and we are going to do so under this regime, with no other purpose than to see that the law is followed.

In Los Pinos, the president received Salomon Paz Sanchez and a leader from each of the states of the National Confederation of Small Property Owners who went to brief the president on recent work in Queretaro and to indicate their support for the government's agrarian policy.

President Lopez-Portillo said that the latifundists are greater enemies of the small property owners than of the ejido owners. More damage has been done to small property holdings than to the ejidos by the present latifundist structure because it hides behind the law and away from the faces of the farmers. The problems that may have occurred in the small property area are in fact problems that have been used as a screen. He demanded that those who have land use it according to our laws. What is required today is fundamentally a reevaluation of work, he said.

MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE ON SANDINIST REQUEST FOR ASYLUM

PA251913Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Aug 78 PA

[Official communique issued by the Panamanian Foreign Relations Ministry--date not given]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry announces that the members of the command of the Sandinist National Liberation Front and the prisoners released by Nicaraguan authorities arrived in Panama yesterday in perfect condition. The diplomatic representatives and ranking clergymen who served as mediators after the armed occupation of Managua's National Palace are in our capital. After a meeting between top government officials and Nicaraguan Sandinist leaders, the latter decided to request political asylum from Panama, announced their decision and expressed their appreciation to the people and Government of Venezuela, which also offered their help in view of the Nicaraguan political crisis.

[Signed] The Foreign Relations Ministry

Television Commentary

PA262010Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 25 Aug 78 PA

[Mario Velasquez commentary]

[Text] The daring surprise attack carried out by the Sandinist commandos who seized the National Palace in Managua, followed by the achievement of their demands, is definitely a political setback for Somoza's regime.

The dictator was forced to negotiate by a handful of young guerrillas and he had to free 58 political prisoners. What is important in this case is that the Sandinists forced Somoza to yield to their demands and escaped unharmed from his claws. To the Nicaraguan people and the rest of Latin America, the dramatic incidents at Managua's National Palace are seen as a heroic action by a small group of 25 guerrillas who ridiculed the impressive military power of Somoza's soldiers. The incident itself showed that the Sandinists can militarily attack the regime.

I believe this is the proper occasion to say something about the nature of the Sandinist movement. It is a politico-military organization that has the people's sympathy in Nicaragua because of its capacity to struggle against the dictatorship and because it is the armed branch of the opposition movement. Its political affiliation is based on revolutionary Marxism. However, because of its style of struggle and the nature of its actions, we do not consider it a terrorist group since it does not use violence indiscriminately, as is the case, for example, with the Palestinians, who in their war against Israel seize persons of any nationality, sex or age. The Sandinists have declared war against Somoza, his officers and the National Guard, which is the only supporter of the dictatorship. We have frequently condemned terrorism carried out indiscriminately, with its sequel of crimes and kidnapings. Our position is invariable in rejecting such a brutal form of struggle. The operations carried out by the Sandinists are war actions in a country which for over a year has been virtually in a state of civil war. The objectives of the Sandinists are military and political, directed specifically at the situation in Nicaragua.

Concerning the Marxist foundation of the Sandinist movement, we feel that it is the other side of the same coin. Even if the Sandinists hit the Somozist dictatorship the hardest, it is precisely their Marxism that is preventing some sectors of international public opinion from providing the final support they need to overthrow Somoza.

This apparently is the case with President Carter's government. It was Carter's definite and timely intervention that prevented the Dominican military from perpetrating an electoral fraud against the opposition.

In the case of Nicaragua, Carter does not have any affection for Somoza's regime. Nevertheless, Carter's government props it up whenever it can. This is evident in Carter's recent letter to Somoza which recognized that some progress has been made in the human rights situation in Nicaragua, as well as in the U.S. State Department's recent statement deploring the assault against and seizure of the National Palace, which no other important Foreign Ministry in the world did. The fact is that Somoza has always maintained good relations with the U.S. State Department and with those conducting the United States' Latin American policy.

Meanwhile, Latin American specialists have proposed the thesis that Somoza's downfall at this moment would leave a power vacuum which only the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], evidently of Marxist affiliation, is capable of filling.

In view of this situation, Washington is not going to abandon Somoza, fearing that a revolutionary experience like the one in Cuba will be repeated in Nicaragua.

However, the U.S. position forms a vicious circle because Somoza's existence definitely opposes the will of all Nicaraguans, including workers, students, peasants, industrialists, businessmen, Christians, and members of the right, center and left. This opposition contributes to the radical struggle against the dictatorship in which all the advantages of political gains favor the FSLN Marxists. At the same time, Washington's support for Somoza's government annoys the Nicaraguan people and contributes to a negative image of President Carter in the minds of those people. This is precisely what contributes to the acceptance of Marxist, leftists, which are not only the most active forces against the dictatorship, but which create serious concern in Washington and other circles of power in the continent.

For the cause of the liberation of the Nicaraguan people and the abolition of 40 years of dictatorship by the Somoza family, it is necessary that a political formula be found that will unite all the opposition forces, such as the broad opposition front. This formula will be capable of giving the country a government of national conciliation without any dominant particular political group and capable of perpetuating a democratic and pluralist government in Nicaragua.

INTERVIEW WITH SANDINIST MILITARY, POLITICAL LEADERS

PA2617122Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 25 Aug 78 PA

[Text] This morning, TV-2 visited the Tinajita Garrison near Colon where the 25 guerrillas of the Sandinist command and the 58 freed political prisoners are staying. They arrived in Panama yesterday and took advantage of the political asylum granted them by the government. Commander Cero--Eden Pastora--granted two interviews, one to the U.S. ABC television network and the other to network KDTV-20, which broadcasts in Spanish through a television service from San Francisco, California. TV-2 obtained the interview conducted by Peruvian newsman Guillermo Descalsi with Commander Cero and a political leader and member of the national leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] who is among the released prisoners. [Panama City ACAN, in a report on the interview transmitted at 0100 GMT on 26 August 1978, and Havana PRELA, in a report transmitted at 0203 GMT on 26 August 1978, identify the "political leader and member of the national leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Front" as Tomas Borge Martinez.] [begin recording]

[Question] Commander Cero, what is in the future for Nicaragua?

[Answer] The future of Nicaragua has two aspects: political and military. I will comment on the military aspect and Tomas Borge Martinez will comment on the political aspect.

The future of Nicaragua is dark. Managua has remained under siege, as if it were encircled by a foreign army. Streets are constantly under patrol. Nicaragua is under a state of terror. [paragraph continues]

As I said, the future of Nicaragua is dark and a bloody struggle against the dictatorship is near. We are preparing for it and so are the people. The FSLN is leading this struggle. Some 5,000 guards are patrolling the city to prevent anyone's departure. The repression being carried out is tremendous.

[Question] What is the secret of Somoza's strength?
[Answer] In the military support he receives from the United States.
[Question] What do you think of the U.S. Government's attitude and of President Carter?
[Answer] Apparently, President Carter has not been firm concerning his principles on the defense of human rights. He sent a letter to Somoza recently that gave him the boost he needed to continue his political life in Nicaragua.
[Question] What are you going to do?
[Answer] We are going to continue the revolutionary struggle.
[Question] Could you specify your objectives?
[Answer] No.
[Question] You are struggling against Somoza's government, but against what sector are your attacks directed?
[Answer] Do you want names?
[Question] No. Is your action going to be against the people in general, is it going to be in the style of terrorism, is it going to be against the bourgeoisie or exclusively against the military? Are you going to limit your actions to a specific group and, if this is the case, against what group?
[Answer] Specifically, against the military and Somoza.
[Question] Why did you choose to stay in Panama?
[Answer] We decided on Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama and Venezuela.
[Question] Why did you stay in Panama?
[Answer] Because of the circumstances existing when the planes landed in Panama.
[Question] Are you going to plan an invasion from Panama?
[Answer] No.
[Question] Are you going to organize the armed struggle from here?

[Answer] Certainly not. The armed struggle is being organized in Nicaragua, where we are struggling. We are here to rest, to take a breather and, because we had to get our comrades and those who were ill out since we had to leave the palace, we had to go somewhere close by. My family is in Costa Rica. I will return to Costa Rica. I am Costa Rican by naturalization and I can go to Costa Rica, where I will stay with my wife and children. I will lead a normal life in Costa Rica. The strategy to be followed is decided by the FSLN's National Directorate.

[Question] I guess that you [Tomas Borge Martinez] will answer the questions on politics. What are the FSLN's main objectives and what are the political characteristics of this front?

[Answer] It is an organization of national liberation which is not only trying to free our country from foreign domination but also from local exploitation. At this moment, our struggle's main objective is to overthrow Somoza. However, for the FSLN it is not enough to just overthrow the Somozist tyranny. At this moment in Nicaragua, the nonrevolutionary forces want to eliminate Somoza but leave what in Nicaragua is termed Somozism without Somoza. The FSLN will not accept that.

[Question] What would you do if you captured Somoza?

[Answer] It is up to the people to decide what to do with Somoza.

[Question] There is a great fear of communism, which is still the black beast in the Western hemisphere. I suppose that the United States does not accept you because you are identified with communism. What can you say about this?

[Answer] For us, the policy of anticommunism is reactionary and favors Somoza's interests in Nicaragua. The chief anticommunist in Nicargua is Anastasio Somoza, and our people have identified anticommunism with Somozism. We are open to all ideas. Within our organization we have Marxist-Leninists and Christians. For example, my companion here [refers to female Sandinist commando known as Dos] is Christian, I am Marxist and Commander Cero is an independent revolutionary.

[Question] Do you believe in elective democracy?

[Answer] Yes we do, at the time and place when the people can express their opinion with authentic and absolute freedom.

[Question] Once you overthrow Somozism, that is, if you do, how long do you believe it will take you to establish a representative democracy?

[Answer] We think that the first step is to establish a national government in which all the democratic forces of the country are represented. It will be the specific circumstances of the moment which are going to indicate when we can legalize that situation.

[Question] How is the FSLN high command made up? Who decides who is to be the leader? In other words, what procedure do you use?

[Answer] The FSLN has a National Directorate made up of those who have experience and seniority in the revolutionary struggle in our country. The National Directorate decides, determines, the specific responsibilities of each of its members, mid-level cadres and military chiefs. For instance, the FSLN National Directorate appointed Comrade Eden Pastora as the commander of the action carried out recently.

[Question] Who is the FSLN military commander at present?

[Answer] The FSLN National Directorate decides who will lead the operation in every military undertaking. There is not one specific military commander. Commanders are appointed at a specific moment.

[Question] What is the next military target in Nicaragua?

[Answer] We believe that there is a real possibility of a people's rebellion, of a general uprising against the Somozist tyranny. It will depend on the unity, firmness and determination of the people's vanguard, which is the FSLN, to carry out this aspiration which we hope will become a reality soon. [end recording]

This morning, during the interview granted by Commander Cero to the U.S. ABC network, U.S. newsman Bob (Serkin) asked if the Sandinists expected to return to Nicaragua with the support of Panamanian or Venezuelan forces. [begin recording]

[Question--in English followed by Spanish translation] Does he plan to go back with the help of any Panamanian or Venezuelan forces?

[Answer] No, this is foolish. We have enough forces there. We are structuring, organizing them. This is a crazy question. [end recording]

COSTA RICA

NICARAGUAN GUERRILLA LEADER DISCUSSES ATTACK ON NATIONAL PALACE

PA261827Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0254 GMT 26 Aug 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 25 Aug (LATIN)--Plutarco Hernandez, one of the top leaders of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) has told the press here that he was one of the planners of the recent attack against the Nicaraguan National Palace. In an interview published today in the weekly "UNIVERSIDAD," Hernandez said that "at the beginning, the operation was to have been carried out by 50 members of the front."

In a past Sandinist operation Hernandez was known as commander "Cero."

President Anastasio Somoza Debayle said in a press conference yesterday in Managua, after the National Palace was evacuated: "We suppose that this was planned in Costa Rica."

Hernandez, who is a member of the FSLN leadership added: "Only the front's national leadership knew of this (the attack)." He went on to say that "at the beginning the operation was to have been carried out by 50 members of the Sandinist Front." "The intention was not to yield an inch if the Nicaraguan Government could not or did not want to get together the $10 million," Hernandez disclosed in the same interview. "There are large amounts of money behind the hostages themselves, such as Pablo Rener, Luis Pallais Debayle (the president's cousin), Francisco Arsenial Papis (progovernment Liberal deputy) and other prominent persons, who can get together three times that amount," he emphasized. Nevertheless, the guerrillas got only $500,000 in ransom and the release of 83 Sandinist prisoners.

Hernandez was pardoned by the Costa Rican Government a few months ago after spending some time in the San Jose penitentiary after authorities discovered a secret firing range.

"All the decisions regarding the negotiations were made by the command of its own account and especially by its general staff, which was composed of four guerrillas," Hernandez said. "The guerrillas can be flexible in negotiations but they cannot yield and should not yield in any way on principles," the Sandinist leader noted.

Hernandez said that the armed operations carried out by the insurrectional tendency of the FSLN--one of the three into which the guerrilla front is divided--has received the support of the other tendencies in the organization since October last year. Nevertheless, he admitted the possibility that some leaders of other FSLN wings may disagree with the effectiveness of actions such as the one staged last Tuesday at the Nicaraguan National Palace. "But," he told the university weekly, "the support received on this occasion was total."

INTERIOR MINISTER DENIES SOMOZA ACCUSATIONS

PA271929Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Costa Rican Interior Minister Juan Jose Echeverria has announced that Eden Pastora, the commander of the Sandinist group that recently seized the Nicaraguan National Palace, can go to Costa Rica whenever he pleases. The interior minister noted that the Sandinist leader has committed no crime in Costa Rican territory. He also denied statements from the head of the Nicaraguan regime, Anastasio Somoza, to the effect that the revolutionary command headed by Eden Pastora was organized in Costa Rica.

SOMOZA ACCUSED OF MAKING FALSE CHARGES

PA252236Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Aug 78 PA

[Text] In his attempt to appear as a defender of human rights, the dictator Somoza is trying to justify his gross failure to cope with the subversive movement in Nicaragua. Mr Somoza has no right to insult the weak nor to threaten the brave, which he is trying to do to cover up the crisis he is facing. Somoza is evidently living in a permament crisis. Only his stubborn determination to remain in power against the will of the people and the continent can be blamed for the constant state of social and political unrest in Nicaragua. His accusations against Costa Rica are nothing but lies and fantasies. The truth is that the only way to solve Nicaragua's current crisis is for Somoza to resign and for a transition government, with representatives from all the political parties, to take over. What is important at this moment is for Somoza to resign. Without Somoza, Nicaragua would be incorporated into the democratic, free system, and the constant accusations against Costa Rica, which have nothing to do with Nicaragua's problems, would end. Costa Rica and Nicaragua are neighbors, that is all.

The Nicaraguans who have left their country to take refuge in ours have maintained the ideal of democratic coexistence which gives them strength to keep on struggling for their fatherland. If they left their country, Somoza is to blame, not Costa Rica. It is not right for Somoza to say that the revolutions against his regime are made in Costa Rica. If many Nicaraguans have decided to live in Costa Rica it is because they cannot live in their own country because of military persecution. The reason for the constant state of unrest is because they want a free and democratic country. The Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) as well as the other groups opposed to Somoza, are struggling for their country's liberation.

It was only the watchful eyes of the world that kept Somoza from carrying out slaughter. Now he is trying to justify his unjustifiable and absurd position when only his downfall can solve the crisis of Nicaragua.

MEDICAL PROFESSION STRIKE DECLARED COMPLETE

PA251717Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Aug 78 PA

[By Manuel Melendez]

[Text] A visit to the various hospitals in the metropolitan area this afternoon to evaluate the strike by doctors and administrative personnel revealed that the situation is the same at all hospitals. The strike is total. Only emergency service was being provided at the San Juan de Dios and Calderon Guardia Hospitals and at the other social security hospitals in the various Costa Rican provinces.

One notable thing was that policewomen were guarding the entrances to these hospitals. They were wearing the same uniforms as male policemen and were checking the identifications of persons entering the hospitals.

The important event of the afternoon was the march staged by a large number of Costa Rican workers in all fields, from all labor groups. Hundreds of persons marched from Central Park to Morazan Park, where, from 1730 up until a few minutes ago, they were (?protesting) against the high cost of living, the government, management and everyone who has anything to do with the increased price of staples.

Deputy De Banda) has commented on today's demonstration. [Begin De Banda recording] [words indistinct] Mr Newsman, a gigantic demonstration of the discontent existing among our people because of the constant increase in the price of staples and the inflexibility of wages.

Many thousands of workers have come to demonstrate their discontent and to show the president of the republic that if he wants formulas by which to achieve high wages for the workers and low prices, he must necessarily promote an agrarian reform program that will give land to Costa Rica's peasants and limit the rising public indebtedness of Costa Rica. In the last 3 months, despite what the president has said on television, his government has contracted debts of over 600 million colones. On the other hand, there are great losses in the great rice fields, losses of over 100 million colones, which are being placed directly onto sugar, milk and all staples. [end recording]

EL SALVADOR

SAFE-CONDUCT DENIED TO VENEZUELAN EMBASSY REFUGEE

PA270236Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1757 GMT 26 Aug 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran Government has denied the safe-conduct requested by the Venezuelan Embassy for Doroteo Gomez Arias, a lawyer who took refuge in the embassy on 14 July 1978. The Salvadoran Foreign Ministry advised Venezuelan Ambassador Abel Clavijo Ostos of the government's decision today, pointing out that Gomez Arias is not wanted for any legal action in the country. The refugee has been mentioned as one of the high-ranking leaders of the clandestine Armed Forces of National Resistance, based on documents found by the authorities in several houses which were raided in San Salvador. More than a month ago the police raided Gomez Arias' legal office in San Miguel and seized arms and a large quantity of subversive propaganda.

In an open letter the accused denied ownership of the material seized but affirmed his decision to continue struggling for the victory of a socialist government. There has been no reaction from the Venezuelan Embassy so far.

PRIESTS ACCUSED OF BEING BPR LEADERS

PA252225Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1645 GMT 25 Aug 78 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 25 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran police issued a communique today accusing two priests of being leaders of the leftist Popular Revolutionary Bloc (BPR). The accused priests are Fabian Amaya and Rafael Barahona. The police said that in Ilopango, 12 km east of downtown San Salvador, Jose Bermoriz Martinez Herrera, watchman at the Central American University (UCA), was arrested after he detonated two BPR propaganda devices. According to the police, Martinez Herrera said that on the day before he was arrested, when he was working at UCA, the two priests and Antonio Morales Carbonel arrived, saying that he had been entrusted with a mission by the BPR council.

Morales Carbonel is son of former mayor and former candidate for the vice presidency Antonio Morales Erlich.

The communique added that the mission was to explode some propaganda devices and that the men told the watchman that they would trust him to do it.

Archbishop Denies Charge

PA270308Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1701 GMT 26 Aug 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--The archbishop of San Salvador said today that there is no basis in fact for the accusation against two priests that they are directing the leftist Popular Revolutionary Bloc [BPR].

In a private statement Jose Bermoris Martinez Herrera, arrested for subversive activities, mentioned priests Fabian Amaya and Rafael Barahona, as well as Antonio Morales Carbonell--son of Jose Antonio Morales Erlich, former Christian Democratic mayor of San Salvador, who has taken refuge in Costa Rica--as leaders of the group which has been disrupting the peace of the Salvadoran people.

The archbishopric said in a communique that "after speaking with all three persons mentioned it was ascertained that the charge against them is absolutely false, slanderous and without basis in fact." Yesterday, Martinez Herrera denied in San Salvador's second criminal court having made the statements attributed to him.

GUATEMALA

UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS AMBUSH, KILL THREE SOLDIERS

PA251634Y Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 25 Aug 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Three Guatemalan Army soldiers have died in an ambush. The soldiers were riddled with bullets at noon yesterday in an ambush laid out by 12 heavily armed men. The event took place near the hamlet of Las Delicias, jurisdiction of Quetzaltenango. The soldiers were riding in a jeep of the Gen Manuel Lizandro Barillas Military Brigade. They were returning to quarters from Champerico Port after buying fish for the garrison's personnel.

Between kilometers 204 and 205 they were surprised by the unidentified assailants, who fired at them with arms of various calibers and types. Following the attack, the 12 men seized the soldiers' arms and left in the direction of the coast in a pick-up truck and a sports-type station wagon. The soldiers have been identified as Artemio Federico Barrios Lopez, Francisco Antonio Perez Lopez and Felipe Ordonez Pascual.

Troops are combing the area in search of the perpetrators of the attack. Yesterday, several military units launched a wide-ranging search for the attackers in Guatemala's southwest. The army public relations office said the event was a wanton action of subversives. In expressing its condolences to the relatives of the soldiers, the office stressed that their grief is shared by each and every one of the members of Guatemala's Armed Forces.

SALVADORAN MEDIATION ACCEPTED IN DISPUTE WITH PANAMA

PA262102Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1720 GMT 26 Aug 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Guatemala and Panama have accepted El Salvador's mediation. Guatemalan President Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia and Panamanian Chief of Government Omar Torrijos Herrera have sent telegrams to Salvadoran President Carlos Humberto Romero saying that they accept with pleasure his mediation to resolve the differences between the two peoples and governments and to establish commercial and diplomatic relations soon. As will be recalled, Torrijos had said he had a role in the Belize affair. That statement made the Guatemalan president break diplomatic and commercial relations with Panama.

OFFICIAL SPEAKS ON GOVERNMENT'S POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

PA261400Y Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 21 Aug 78 p 11 PA

[Text] Carlos Toledo Vielman, public relations secretary of the presidency of the republic, has said that Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia's government has already broadly defined its political philosophy: Strict respect for the constitution and the laws of the republic and establishing a government in which the vast majority of the country's people will participate. Therefore, he added, the government is trying to effectively establish a functional democracy.

In accordance with this political philosophy, the high-ranking official added, President Lucas Garcia has said on more than one occasion that he is willing to discuss with all sectors whatever proposals they may make, including possible amendments to the electoral law, in order to effect the corresponding consideration and analysis of the proposals. The secretary said that beginning this month, and for the purpose of maintaining a permanent dialog, the president will meet with leaders of parties, institutions and political and civic entities in order to exchange opinions, familiarize himself with ideas and receive suggestions, since he wishes to channel the efforts of the government which he heads toward a process of democratization and national concord.

HONDURAS

PAZ GARCIA DEFENDS RIGHT TO ACQUIRE MORE WEAPONS

PA272152Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1948 GMT 26 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 27 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia, chief of the Honduran Government's military junta, has defended his country's right to acquire more weapons in order to defend "peace and order amid the coexistence among nations and communities." On Saturday the president of the triumvirate addressed hundreds of soldiers and officers who were commemorating the founding anniversary of the 2d Infantry Battalion.

Paz Garcia praised the various maneuvers carried out by the unit, which he described as extremely "modern" in terms of techniques and tactics employed, a fact which guarantees a high level of "effectiveness and coordination in cases involving the defense of sovereignty." He added that the effectiveness of the new groups of paratroopers show that the Honduran Army does not have to go abroad to find the personnel necessary to train new groups. Paz Garcia stressed, nonetheless, that despite the increases in arms, the armed forces government "loves peace. We are struggling to preserve it as the most effective path to achieving national development goals on behalf of the people."

NICARAGUA

FOREIGN MINISTER BLAMES NATIONAL PALACE ATTACK ON CASTRO

PA251702Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Aug 78 PA

[Station interview with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Julio Cesar Quintana at Tocumen airport in Panama City while en route from Montevideo to Managua on 24 August 1978--recorded]

[Text] [Question] According to international news agencies, you said in Montevideo that negotiations are the best way to solve the National Palace conflict in Managua.

It appears that a solution was reached. You were also said to have stated that Fidel Castro's government has armed and instigated that movement. Do you care to add anything to those statements to television channel two?

[Answer] In effect, I told several newsmen who interviewed me in our embassy in Montevideo that negotiations were possible, that I felt President Somoza--who has shown his humanitarian and conciliatory spirit and who has been inviting the various opposition sectors to a dialog--would successfully conclude a negotiation without further bloodshed on either side. I am very pleased to hear through you that the negotiations were carried out as predicted by me--one who, serving as his foreign minister, knows President Somoza so well--and that calm has been restored in Managua and useless bloodshed prevented.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, on what do you base your charge that the Fidel Castro government had a hand in this affair?

[Answer] Chiefly on the fact that the Sandinists have declared internationally, through all information media, that they are Marxists, that they belong to the left. In Montevideo I said that Castro created that metamorphosis [as heard] in his efforts to overthrow my country's constitutional regime. Sandino was never a communist. During the civil war which ended in 1927 Sandino fought for my country's sovereignty. Now, in contrast, those who call themselves Sandinists are trying to overthrow the regime in order to subject our country to the jurisdiction of Moscow and the dominion of Cuba, which has become the leader of countries in Africa and some in Latin America. Public opinion knows that Fidel Castro still is obsessed with overthrowing Nicaragua's constitutional and democratic government in order to establish a Marxist government, with designs on all of Central America.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, another question: What is your personal opinion of the political future of Nicaragua?

[Answer] To finish the previous question, my fundamental basis for making that statement is that in 1974 the seizure of hostages at the home of Jose Maria Castillo was publicly supported by Fidel Castro. Then, as now, Radio Havana reported continuously, with suspicious accuracy, on what was happening. Consequently, in my opinion the 1974 incident shows that Fidel Castro continues to intervene in the internal affairs of Central America in an effort to dominate the other countries of the isthmus. As for your last question, I must say that my country's future under the leadership of President Somoza is guaranteed by the constitution of the republic. Constitutional order will not be disrupted as those who oppose our regime desire. President Somoza has the backing of a totally loyal army and a united Nationalist Liberal Party, to which I belong, being a member of my party's leadership. We will do everything possible to uphold constitutional order because the experience we had in this century is that when Gen Emiliano Chamorro broke with the constitutional order in 1926, this led to the bloodiest civil war that has occurred in our country. Consequently, aside from the fact that the people themselves want peace, I feel that President Somoza has the political, military and moral force to maintain constitutional order in Nicaragua.

[Question] What conditions do you consider necessary for peace and tranquility to reign in our neighboring Nicaragua?

[Answer] In my opinion it is indispensable--and many calm and dispassionate people feel the same way--for a successful dialog to be initiated with the political opposition to the regime to which I belong in order to agree on the way in which other parties can participate in the electoral process. For the present, the Nationalist Liberal Party has declared that there will be elections for new authorities at the Liberal convention next April. The convention is to choose the future candidate who will be elected by the Nationalist Liberal Party if it wins in the elections to be held according to the constitution in 1981.

SOMOZA'S COUSIN SAYS GOVERNMENT STRENGTHENED BY ATTACK

PA262128Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1839 GMT 26 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 26 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--"The Sandinist operation at the National Palace has not weakened the Somoza government; it has strengthened it," Luis Pallais Debayle, a cousin of Gen Anastaso Somoza, director of the newspaper NOVEDADES and Liberal Party spokesman in the Nicaraguan Congress, told this news agency today. He was one of the important hostages of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] (Tercerist Faction) which seized and occupied the National Palace from noon on 22 August until 0900 on 24 August.

Completely recovered from the extreme circumstances in which he was involved and again at the head of the progovernment newspaper, Pallais Debayle said that the FSLN "war communique," whose publication was one of the Sandinist command's demands, "does the government a favor. That communique clearly criticizes and outlines differences with the church, capital and the medium and small bourgeoisie," Pallais Debayle told ACAN-EFE.

In the Liberal congressman's opinion, the Sandinist front makes it clear that the group is intent upon armed struggle to reach power and carry out a radical change of institutions. The Liberal spokesman emphasized that the content of the Sandinist war communique, much read and published in Nicaragua, will "alert all Nicaraguans, but especially the bourgeosie, at all levels." He added that he advised the capitalists, the bourgeoisie and all Nicaraguans to unite "and defend themselves against the intent of the Sandinist front, whose objective is to eliminate the present Nicaraguan system of pro-Western democracy." He went on to say: "I believe that in Nicaragua not even the peasants would accept a communist government, because the man in the countryside aspires to owning a piece of land in his name, his horse, his cow, pig and chickens. Moreover, he wants to have his own crop and to sell it to whomever he wants and whenever he wants. But under a communist regime he could not do so." "I believe the FSLN will have to fight very hard to attain its objectives," said the Liberal Party spokesman who was held hostage by the Sandinist "Rigoberto Lopez Perez" Command.

OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE FOLLOW END OF NATIONAL PALACE SIEGE

Police Posts Attacked

PA251557Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1535 GMT 25 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 25 Aug (AFP)--Intense shooting between armed civilians and the police took place Thursday night in southeastern Managua, it was reported here today. The clash occurred when civilians attacked two police posts in the sector. The shooting went on for 30 minutes. No casualties have been reported. The attackers threw six bombs at the posts and shot at the police with pistols. The attack was repulsed after the arrival of reinforcements from army central headquarters. At the same time, another group of unidentified persons opened fire with rifles on the LA PRENSA daily and threw a fragmentation grenade at it. The bomb did not explode.

Policeman Killed

PA252122Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2030 GMT 25 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 25 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--A gun battle between unidentified civilians and the military broke out at 0130 (1930 GMT) in Jinotepe, some 45 km south of Managua.

Also in the city of Masaya, in the eastern part of Nicaragua, traffic policeman Jesus Carcamo was shot to death by three young men traveling in a taxi they had stolen a few minutes earlier.

An ACAN-EFE correspondent who phoned a Jinotepe resident could hear the gun battle taking place around the city market. So far there have been no reports on casualties in this new outbreak of violence in Nicaragua.

It was also learned that in Diriamba, close to Jinotepe, civilians had attacked a truck loaded with "Ambar" lard. Reports say that the cargo was distributed among the people. Three persons, whose names were not released, were wounded when a military patrol arrived to disperse the crowd which had attacked the vehicle.

Casualty Figures

TA2616555Y Paris AFP in English 1635 GMT 26 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Madrid, 26 Aug (AFP)--One Nicaraguan student was killed and nine were wounded by bullets fired by Nicaraguan National Guardsmen today during clashes in the university town of Jinotepe, south of Managua, it was learned by telephone here. Journalists at the Managua newspaper LA PRENSA reported that the disorders in Jinotepe began as students urged storekeepers to adhere to the general strike called yesterday by the opposition to the regime of President Anastasio Somoza and lasted 14 hours. An unspecified number of people were arrested, they said, and one member of the National Guard (army) was also injured.

During the fracas, students seized a truck transporting olive oil, which they distributed to residents of Jinotepe, 45 km (30 miles) from the capital, journalists reported.

Sandinist Killed

PA2621525Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1655 GMT 26 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 26 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--A Sandinist guerrilla indentified as Alvaro Sanchez died yesterday in Jinotepe, a city 45 km south of this capital, during a shootout in which regular government forces participated. The progovernment daily NOVEDADES of Managua carries two pictures of the body of the guerrilla on its front page. According to the publication, the young rebel used a 9-mm PPK pistol in the shootout. He was wearing an olive drab uniform and jungle boots similar to those used by members of the Nicaraguan army.

Sanchez is the second person to die in Jinotepe yesterday or today as a result of shooting that went on for approximately 14 hours. The other casualty is a civilian who was killed in a crossfire. Another 10 persons were wounded.

The hostilities began when young students took the streets of Jinotepe to pressure businessmen to join the general strike initiated here yesterday following a call to that effect by the Broad Opposition Front. The objectives of the indefinite strike are the resignation of President Somoza and the departure of Maj Anastasio Somoza Portocarrero and Gen Jose R. Somoza from the National Guard.

Tension Increases

PA2719255Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1759 GMT 27 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 27 Aug (AFP)--Tension increased today in Nicaragua pending a decision by the Federation of Chambers of Commerce on the national strike against the regime of president Gen Anastasio Somoza called by the Opposition Front for tomorrow, Monday.

In the meantime, new incidents occurred in several cities in the interior. In Jinotepe, Leon, Ocotal, La Trinidad and Esteli, groups of demonstrators set up barricades in the streets, it was reported here. In four cities the army fired into the air to disperse groups of demonstrators who demanded General Somoza's resignation. Housewives joined the protests, banging on empty pots.

In Matagalpa, armed groups of rebels attacked the home of Deputy Juan Palacious, of the official Liberal Party. In Ocotal, 300 km north of Managua, another group shot at the residence of retired National Guard Colonel Orlando Gutierrez and tried to start a fire.

Managua appears calm but the atmosphere continues to be very tense with the possibility that the Federation of Chambers of Commerce may decide to join the general strike called last Friday by the Opposition Front. The leaders of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce met this morning to take a definite stand which, if in favor of the strike, will practically paralyze all commercial activities throughout the country beginning tomorrow. Sources close to the federation are certain that it will support the strike.

Government employees have continued cleaning up the National Palace, which was occupied for 48 hours by a Sandinist command demanding the release of political prisoners confined in the prisons of the Somoza regime. Authorities intend to reopen the palace, in which several ministries and government offices are located, on Monday morning, but groups of strikers are urging the employees to join the national strike in opposition to Somoza.

BUSINESS SECTOR JOINS GENERAL STRIKE AGAINST SOMOZA

PA2719417 Paris AFP in Spanish 1931 GMT 27 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 27 Aug (AFP)--Nicaraguan business organizations today asked the people to overthrow the government of Gen Anastasio Somoza but "without participation of the Sandinists." In a communique issued today, the businessmen, who met early this morning, also expressed their support for the general strike called for tomorrow, Monday.

They noted that they do not support the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) because of the statements issued by the "Rigoberto Lopez" Command, which occupied the National Palace in Managua last week and proclaimed their intention to do away with capitalism and end private enterprise. The businessmen added that "an end must be put to Somoza because it is his dictatorship which has caused the rise of armed Sandinism, composed of thousands of youths who have no political participation in the country." They also emphasized that efforts must be made to establish a new government that is "neither Somozist nor Sandinist." "That must be the goal of the civic struggle through the general strike," they warned.

Finally, the business sector insisted upon the need to deal a "decisive" blow to Somozism in September, the month in which the law obliges businesses to submit their income tax returns for annual taxes.

PRENSA LATINA NOTES 'DETERIORATION' OF U.S.-MEXICAN RELATIONS

FL261933Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 78 FL

[Text] A PRENSA LATINA report indicates that relations between the presidents of Mexico and the United States, Jose Lopez-Portillo and James Carter, respectively, have not overcome the deterioration caused by the petroleum blackmail which the White House wanted to impose on Mexico at the end of 1977. At that time North American President James Carter forced six large petroleum companies to break their contracts to buy 2 billion cubic feet of natural gas from Mexico if that country did not agree to lower the price of the product.

Carter withdrew from Congress the bill to lend Mexico almost $500 million to finance a 1,350 km gas pipeline which is being built at a cost of $1.4 billion. The gas pipeline will allow Mexico to transport gas from the area bordering Guatemala to the U.S. border. The Mexicans had to take out loans for about $1 billion extra from the international bank [as heard] and had to detour the pipeline to its industrial zones in the northwest because a large portion of the pipe had already been bought and the gas pipeline was already under construction.

Mexico feels doubly offended because Carter prohibited gas to be brought from that country for $2.60 per 1,000 cubic feet, but he allows gas to be bought from Indonesia and other countries for over $3.00.

Another of Carter's blackmail gestures was the embargo decreed on the departure of natural uranium which Mexico had bought from France at a cost of $100 million and which was to be enriched in the United States. The United States refuses to deliver the uranium to Mexico, which is to be used in the thermoelectric plant being built in Vera Cruz, on the pretext demanding that Mexico must not use the plutonium by-product as a nuclear explosive material and therefore must sign a pledge to this effect. The blackmail is multiplied because Washington does not deliver the uranium but charges Mexico taxes for storing it.

Added to this was Carter's attempt to have Lopez-Portillo's recent tour of Bulgaria and the USSR held in accordance with a prior agreement with the United States. The chill between the Mexican and U.S. chief executives continue and an example of this was Lopez-Portillo's refusal to attend Carter's reception in Panama on the occasion of the new canal treaties. Nor did the Mexican chief executive attend the meeting held by the presidents after the protocol ceremony, which was attended by James Carter.

Indications that Mexican-North American relations are not going well is also seen in decisions made by top government circles in Washington. The North American Congress, for example, last year debated and approved 147 laws, but only two dealt with Mexico, which were on exchanging prisoners and an agreement on fishing zones. Both documents clearly favored the United States. Now the North American State Department has once again begun to prepare for the often announced and postponed meeting between James Carter and the Mexican president in an attempt to find a positive change in relations with this neighbor to the south. Nothing concrete has yet been proposed and the only thing predicted is the possibility that the meeting will be held in Mexico City in January or February 1979.

COMMENTARY LAUDS NONALINED MOVEMENT, ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FL261736Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Aug 78 FL

[Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry Combatants Political Information Program commentary]

[Text] Since its establishment in 1961, the nonalined countries movement has played an increasingly greater role in defending the principles which are the basis of the UN Charter.

The active participation of the nonalined movement in the United Nations is responsible for numerous initiatives, such as disarmament, decolonization, a new international economic order and restructuring and democratizing the United Nations.

The nonalined movement consists of the majority of the 149 members of the United Nations and is struggling to make the charter proposals on maintaining international peace and security come true. They are also struggling for the principle of equal rights and self-determination, cooperation in solving economic and social problems and non-use of force against states' integrity and independence.

One of the first nonalined movement initiatives was the proposal that the UN General Assembly hold a world conference or an extraordinary session on disarmament, which was achieved after a couple of weeks, after it had taken years of effort. Discussion of this burning issue for all of humanity was opened to all UN members.

Another of the movement's desires has been to democratize international reltions and the organizations and proceedings inside the United Nations. The nonalined movement achieved changes such as expanding the Security Council from 11 to 25 members and increasing the Economic and Social Council from 27 to 54 countries, to allow greater participation by nations of the so-called Third World in UN decisions. In addition, the movement has always favored universalizing the international organization. It confronted the stubborn U.S. position which did not allow some states to join and gained entrance to the organization for China in 1971, Angola in 1976 and, after three North American vetoes, Vietnam in 1977.

The anti-imperialist ideas of struggling for decolonization and peoples' self-determination, which are supported by the nonalined movement, have helped to form decisions favoring peoples who are struggling for their true and total independence.

VISITING MOZAMBICAN MILITARY DELEGATION ARRIVES

FL270045Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Aug 78 FL

[Text] This afternoon a top level Mozambican military delegation arrived in our country, headed by Armando Emilio Guebuza--member of the political permanent commission of the FRELIMO central committee, political commissar of the Mozambican Popular Liberation Forces and vice minister of national defense. The Mozambican delegation is paying an official visit in response to an invitation from Army Gen Raul Castro, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR].

At Jose Marti International Airport the top level military delegation was received by Div Gen Senen Casas Requeiro, first vice minister-chief of the general staff; Div Gen Pigoberto Garcia Fernandez, FAR vice minister-chief of the Youth Labor Army; Vice Adm Aldo Santamaria Cuadrado, vice minister-chief of the revolutionary navy; all members of the PCC Central Committee. Col Demetrio Montseny Villa, chief of the FAR Ministry of Foreign Relations directorate, was also present.

During their stay in Cuba the Mozambican delegation will visit military units and teaching centers and sites of historical and economic interest.

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